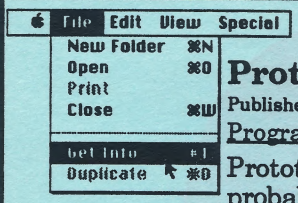
VMUG
VICTORIA MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

Victoria Macintosh Users Group

15 items | 257 K in Newsletter | Last modified February '90




## Prototyper v2.1

Publisher: Smethers-Barnes

Programming Utility

Prototyper is probably one of the most useful programmer's aids to come along in quite a while. It ranks right up there with ResEdit and a few other indispensable programs. Basically what Prototyper does is allow you to draw the user interface of a program and test it. It's drawing tools allow you to place buttons, icons, scrolling lists, pop-up menus and a host of other resources in dialog boxes.

This graphical approach to creating the interface section of a program is very useful, since it eliminates a large amount of time that can be spent setting up and fixing resources that are defined in a resource text file. Anyone who has done any real programming on the Macintosh knows that applications have two parts, the code (functions of the program) and the resources (user interface section of program). Both parts of an application are compiled separately and then linked together. This process varies slightly, depending on which compiler you are using. A resource file is a list of resources in text format, listing the resource type such as MENU or ICON, as well as the coordinates of the item within a dialog box. This means that to change the way a dialog box looks, you have to move everything around by typing in new coordinates for each item.

Prototyper allows you to draw the objects you want and move them around until you like the way things look. The program has two simulation modes, one where you can take a look at the item you are currently working on, and another where you can test the whole prototype.

Prototyper's testing capabilities are quite nice, since you can see how the program will "feel" before spending a great deal of time coding. You can show it to your friends or associates and get their opinions on how it looks and acts, and make any changes easily. The prototypes act just like applications, when you select a menu item the dialog box that you have linked to comes up on the screen and allows the user to select buttons, enter text or any other desired action, just as the real program will. Of course, the program will not actually perform its real task, since you can't put any code into the prototype.

Once you have the program acting the way you want it to, you can switch to Prototyper's Code Module (s) and have it generate the source code for the application. It has two code modules, one for C and one for Pascal. Both handle several interpretations of these languages (such as Lightspeed and MPW). Prototyper generates the text files for both the code and the resources, which can then be modified and added to, allowing the programmer to finish the application.

Prototyper has some real advantages, it handles all the resource types for user interface (including pop-up and hierarchical menus) and its fast and easy. A simple prototype can be built from scratch in a couple of minutes.

Its one major problem is that the code that it generates is not very well optimized. I took a program that I was working on and built it with Prototyper and using my traditional methods. The code that Prototyper built was roughly 75% larger. However, considering that user interface does not make up a majority of the code in a program this difference only amounts to 5 or 10 K in most cases.

*continued on P. 3...*

# February's Meeting

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# Feb. 8th @ 7:30 PM

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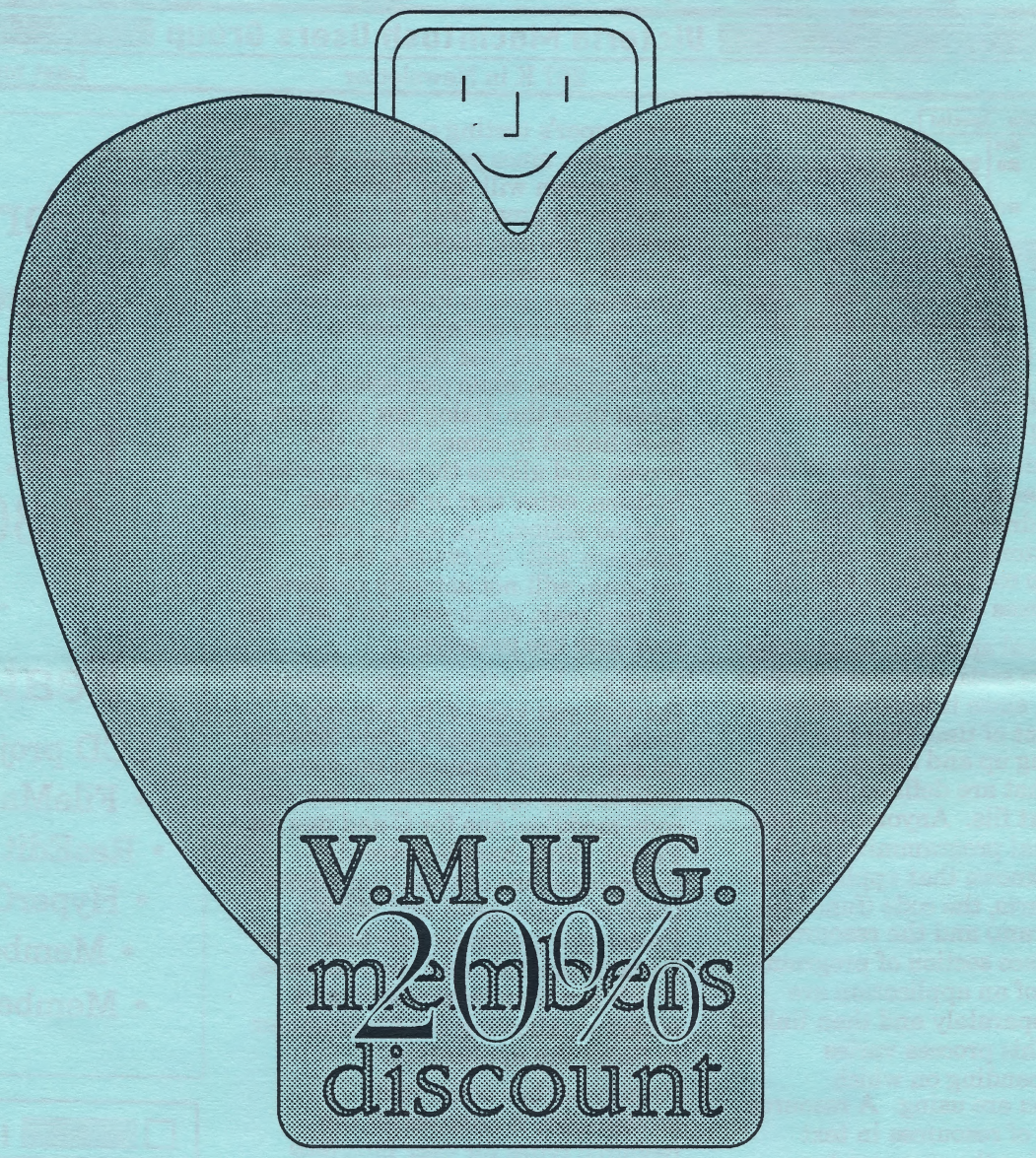
# Featuring:

- LCD projection system
- FileMakerII Demo
- ResEdit DeMystified
- HyperCard Demo's
- Membership Tips
- Membership Hints

## INFO

| | |
|---|---|
| Get Info "Prototyper" | P. 1 |
| Jan. Meeting Notes | P. 3 |
| President's Pad | P. 4 |
| Gunnar's Corner | P. 4 |
| Logo Contest | P. 4 |
| Bytes & Pieces | P. 5 |
| P.D. Folder | P. 6 |
| We've Moved | P. 6 |
| VMug Policies | P. 7 |
| Want Ads | P. 7 |

# Who's Your Valentine?

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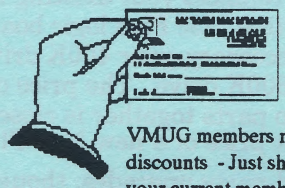
## Prototyper *cont'd...*

Prototyper is a very handy tool for any planning on doing Macintosh Programming in a serious way. It allows you to quickly and easily visualize the way a program will interact with the user and is excellent for adding features as you get thinking about the program.

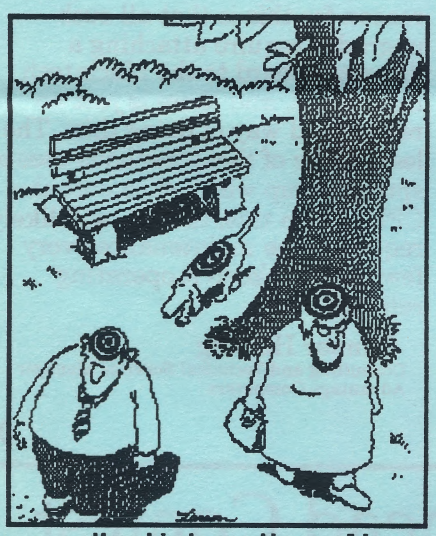
Next Issue: **America Online!** A new national bulletin board for the Macintosh.

John Kilbank ⌘.

Your VMUG Membership Card
Don't leave home without it.

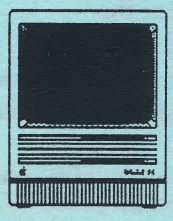


VMUG members receive discounts - Just show your current membership card.



How birds see the world

This newsletter was created on 2.5 megabyte Macintosh SE with 90 megs of hard-drive, using Ready-Set-Go 4.5 (provided by Letraset to the user group) and printed on a General Computers Personal Laser Printer.



## NotePad

### BUSINESS OLD & NEW

**December 14th Meeting Notes**

- BBS STATUS. Advantage has set up a VMUG section on their bulletin board. For the use of VMUG members this section includes provision for - public messages within the VMUG Section, uploads to the Executive, and down-loading by the Executive only. In addition, time on the BBs has been increased to 45 minutes for VMUG members.
- THE BIG PICTURE. A vote was taken to purchase the interface for a LCD screen. Cost would be $150-180 or less than 20% of our current bank balance. Bill Hall has offered to make a LCD screen available for meetings. General consensus of the meeting was for the club to raise the necessary funds and buy a screen as soon as possible.
- TUTORIAL-HELP SESSIONS. A'mnon Cohen is coordinating a proposal and is seeking input. Current thinking is 1 hr. study-help sessions on a Saturday.

### NEW BUSINESS

- APPLE CANADA WORMS. Apple Canada recently laid off 60 employees in anticipation of a slow down in sales. Robin reported that information flow from Apple to our group virtually dropped to zero last month. The Exec. is to express the Group's concern and seek assurance that User Group support will continue as it has in the past.
- NEWSLETTER. The idea of mailing future Newsletters versus picking them up at the monthly meeting was discussed. General preference of the members was to continue the mailing. The last Newsletter was mailed by noon on the Saturday before the meeting and most members received their copies on Monday. Members gave their approval to publish a list of members and their phone numbers in a future copy of the Newsletter.

### PRESENTATION

- DAVE DLUGOS of SofTA (State of The Art) gave a short talk on what SofTA does. Essentially it is a 3rd party supplier who knows Macintosh intimately. The company provides services in DTP, financial modelling (business plans, financial statements), sells 3rd party peripherals, offers honest advice and consulting as Mac specialists, does custom programming, offers a laser printer service and services computer equipment for several local School Districts. Also has a Mac II, SE and MacPlus available to rent.

  Dave then demonstrated two programs.

  TypeAlign a DA by Emerald City Software. This is a text bending tool where a curve can be created and then typed along it. It also warps text and can be used with any application. Works with Adobe TypeManager.

  TypeStyler an application by Brøderbund Software. Is an application that allows the users to customize, manipulate and create special effects with display type. The user can bend, squeeze, stretch, twist, rotate, add perspective, shadows, shades, in-lines and outlines, patterns and colours to display type.

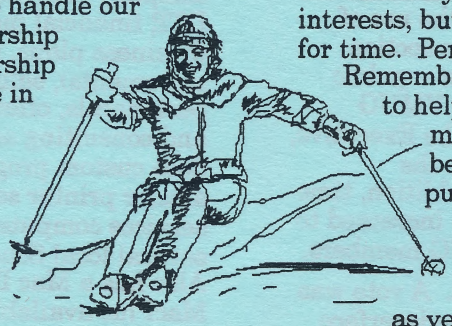
### GENERAL

- SuperCard v1.0 has a serious bug and members were advised to wait for the next version.
- FileMaker v2 is a good data base program. Has invoice templates. Manual is hard to follow.
- NISUS v2.03 is recommended as a word processing application.
- John Kilbank at Island Business Forms, 386-2522, sells tractor feed envelopes to use with the ImageWriter printers.
- There were about 60 members and visitors at the meeting held in the library of the James Bay Community School Centre. The room seems to meet the needs of VMUG and we will continue to use it.

Cym Williams ⌘.

## From the President's Pad

Total attendance at the January meeting was over 50, with 37 of 48 members attending. What a great way to start off a new decade! The new meeting place was certainly far more suitable to handle our growing membership (see the membership graph elsewhere in the newsletter). Perhaps after a few more meetings we will have a better seating arrangement.



Dave Dlugo's explanation of SofTA and presentation of TypeAlign and TypeStyler was very interesting and well done., however, it was probably the most graphic example yet of our need for an LCD Projection system or alternative for presentations to a large group.

Despite a clear indication by the membership in favour of purchasing an interface for a LCD Projection system, we have not as yet done so. As several concerns were expressed at our last executive meeting, more discussion and decision will be forthcoming at the February meeting. For the next meeting we will have available a Mac with LCD Projection system loaned from a neutral source.

The Feedback forms filled out by many members were greatly appreciated, and despite the wording problems of the form itself, provided a great deal of useful information. Several people expressed concern about the use of buzz words, technical jargon, and that the level of discussion was at too high a level. If you do not understand something ask, phone one of the executive, express your real interest in a Saturday training session, or post a help message in the VMUG section of Advantage BBS. We are attempting to include more basic topics at our meetings but as a User Group we must appeal to all levels. Remember the Questions, Answers, Help, Tips section towards the end of the meeting is your time to bring up anything you want at any level you want.

Included in this month's newsletter mailing to members only is a list of all members and their phone number. I had hoped to include other information on each member, such as the type of work they do, the Mac they use and their interests, but was rather pressed for time. Perhaps on the next list. Remember this list is intended to help members contact members and should not be used for any other purpose.

Informal training or help sessions, have not been formally set up as yet, but hopefully something definite will happen after the next meeting. So if you want these session tell us and commit the time.

For the next meeting, Thursday, February 11th, we will have several short presentations by members. Graham Scholes on FileMaker II, Greg Ruffell will attempt to demystify ResEdit, I will show how HyperCard has been used to keep the VMUG Membership info, and Doug Alderson has something more on HyperCard. With the presence of an LCD Projection system, the Hints and Tips section will be open to members to demonstrate their latest skills. I will also have an interesting story to relate about a recent ski trip to the interior. What has a Macintosh got to do with a ski trip? Find out at the meeting.

Robin ⌘.

## Gunnar's Corner

I'm a little short of spare time this month, so I will just answer one short question. Next month should be less hectic for me, so keep those questions coming in.

Apparently there has been some interest expressed in upgrade routes for pre-Mac Plus systems. This is kind of a hard call because there are no really good answers; they are either too expensive or somewhat lacking technically speaking.

Technically, the best route is the true Mac Plus upgrade; it is also, however, the most expensive. This upgrade replaces your existing logic board with a Mac Plus logic board and, if necessary, your 400K drive with an 800K drive. The price of these two parts together is close to the street price of a new Mac Plus.

The third party upgrades, though less expensive, are often a little weak on long-term reliability. The reason for this is that all such upgrades require attaching a daughter board to the Macintosh logic board, and there is just no really good way of doing this. The least-flaky of these methods uses a spring clamp which clips onto the CPU. Even this, though, will likely require some maintenance every few years to keep it operating reliably.

Gunnar Heiberg
Consulting and Technical Services Manager
Advantage Computers

⌘.

# VMUG Masthead Contest

## or "Get Rid of the Muddy Logo" Contest

A number of members, including the executive, have noted that the Logo, while distinctive, doesn't really do justice to the potential of the Macintosh computer that it is representing. We have therefore decided to conduct a contest for a new newsletter masthead.

Submissions must be made to the executive before the end of the April meeting — that gives you two months.

**Rules:** Size: maximum 8" x 3"
Suitable for the top of the title page of the newsletter
Must include the words "Victoria Macintosh Users Group" and / or "VMUG"

A committee will be formed to judge the entries, and a prize of a gift certificate or game software will be awarded to the winner.

## Bytes & Pieces from the Editor

Maybe I shouldn't have sounded so positive at the last meeting, about the number of articles I was getting — where have they all gone? Thanks to John Kilbank for his continued series of reviews, hopefully you will contact him with ideas for further material to review.

There has been some excellent articles from the members over the past few months, and as our membership grows, I think we can look forward to even more articles to stimulate our interest.

For those of you with modems, it is now easier to contact the executive and leave us messages and articles for the newsletter — please make use of this dynamite resource.

I have heard a number of computer users, of various persuasions, express the idea that they wouldn't have a modem because by using it they would get a virus. That idea is incorrect, and you should look at a modem as just an extension of your telephone, an item most of us wouldn't be without. It can be just as useful to you and your computer! If you are lucky enough to have a knowledgeable friend (or many of them in the case of a user-group) you can get direct help on what you are doing. Recently I was able to assist a new Mac User in a) using their modem for the first time and b) transferring me the file that was causing them trouble. Then, as I solved the problem on my machine, I was able to instruct them in the way to solve the problem for themselves. You may also find that as computers and modems grow in number, that the number of sources of up-to-date information will also increase. Did you know that there are on-line encyclopedias, weather and stock-market reports available, to mention just a few of the areas that your modem can link you to the rest of the world.

You can get viruses from programs that you have down-loaded from a BBS, but that would be less likely than getting one from someone that lends you a disk to look at. With a virus detection program and some common-sense precautions (see last month's column) you have very little to fear. Be sure to be wary of the disks that come from any source! Applications direct from the box could contain nasty surprises.

Greg ⌘.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** requires Apple's ROM/Drive upgrade*
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## The PD Folder

**Access To The Public Domain/Shareware Library**

We now have over 100 - 800k disks full of public domain and shareware software in the VMUG disk library. The listing of these disks is on the VMUG Library Index Disk, available at the regular meetings or directly from me at no charge.

The full library will be made available at the regular meetings, but between meeting you can get copies directly by calling me at home at 388-5634, and we will arrange a time to get together. (Ed. If you get his answering machine, be prepared for the loong beep!)

There is a $1.00 copy fee for members and a $2.00 copy fee for non-members per disk, to help cover expenses ie: more disks, labels, more software etc. Please format your disks before the meeting!

For those of you with 400k drives, fear not you are not being forgotten, for each disk you want copied just give me 2 - 400k disks instead of 1 - 800k .

We also have bulk disks for sale at $1.50 each, available at the meetings or through me at 388-5634.

There has been some mention of a copy fest, perhaps on a Saturday. If there is enough interest it can and will be arranged.

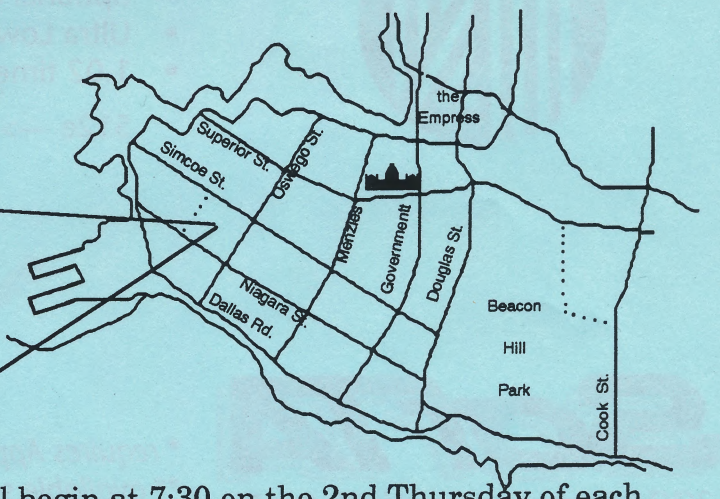
Any questions you have pertaining the Disk Library please pass them on.

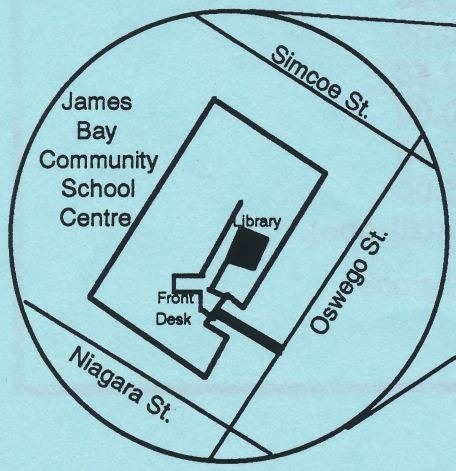
I would like to make this the best software library the Victoria Macintosh Users Group has had to date, and I believe you get out of the group what you put into it, so all you folks that do a lot of BBSing and dowloading of PD software let's get it all into the library for everyone to enjoy.

Unfortunately, there will not be a disk-of-the-monththis meeting, but 'stay tuned' good things come to those who wait.

Ivan Good ⌘.
The PD Librarian

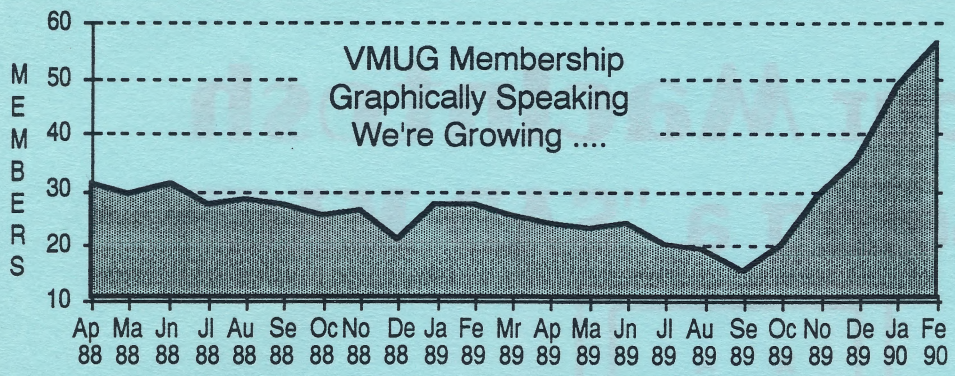
## VMUG Meetings have moved to the Library of the James Bay Community School Centre 140 Oswego Street



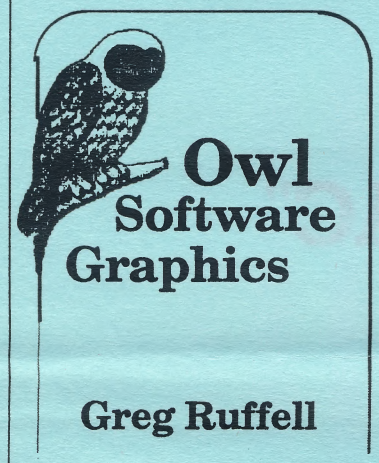

**Next Meeting FEB. 8th BE THERE !**

Meetings still begin at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Parking on street. Enter by the Community Centre entrance at 140 Oswego St. (not the school entrance) . The Library is located down the hall to the right of the front desk.




For January, welcome to the following new members:- James & Laurette Agnew, Robert Barlow, J.Forsyth, Dave Johl, Frank Kennell, John Kilbank, Bruce Ralphs, & James Vitti.

## Business Card Column



**Owl Software Graphics**

**Greg Ruffell**

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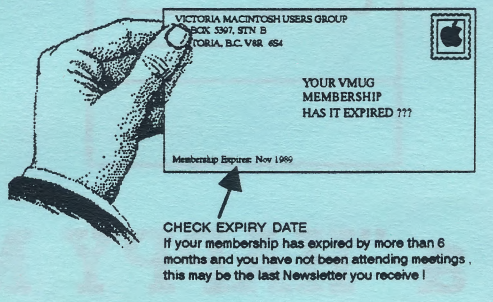
This space is for your business card.

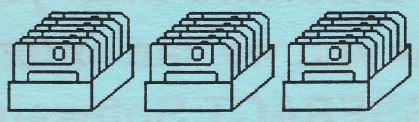



## Want Ads

**Wanted:** We are always looking for bits and pieces of info we can pass on. Questions, tips, rumors, hints, reviews, anything that you'd like to tell other Mac users. Then use your Mac and write it down and pass it along to us at VMUG. All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

**For Sale:** Mac 512K with external 400K drive, monitor, mouse. Hardware only, $750.00, Call Chuck @ 477-1934 evenings - please leave a message.

**FOR SALE** - Imagewriter II Printer. Excellent condition - has printed only 2 pads of fan fold paper. Asking $595. Colin & Fil Jackson - 656-0627. ⌘.



**BULK DSDD DISK**
Now available at a new incredibly LOW price, bulk DSDD Diskettes (for VMUG Members only) See Ivan at the Meeting.

## VMUG Policies

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Submissions on any subject relevant to the Macintosh, or computing in general are welcome. The deadline for submissions and advertising is the 4th Thursday of the month, two weeks after the regular monthly meeting. Contact the Editor directly for details.

### Advertising Rates

| | |
|---|---|
| Full Page | $40.00 |
| Half Page | $20.00 |
| Quarter Page | $10.00 |
| Eighth Page | $5.00 |
| Business Card | $2.00 |
| Unclassified | Free to Members |

### Victoria Macintosh Users Group

The Victoria Macintosh Users Group is an informal group of people with an interest in the Apple™ Macintosh®. Membership is open to all. Individual or family membership is $20 a year, guests are welcome to sample a meeting or two for $1 per meeting.

VMUG does not condone in any way, the illegal copying of copyright computer programs and will not tolerate such practise at any user group function.

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month, in the library of the James Bay Community School, 140 Oswego Street, Victoria. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.

### Directors and Contacts

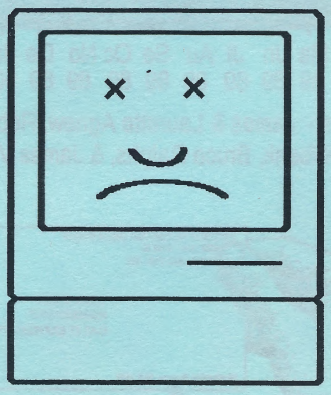
| | |
|---|---|
| Robin Tamasi | President 652-3588 |
| Ivan Good | Vice-President PD Librarian 388-5634 |
| Greg Ruffell | Editor/Publisher 479-4011 |
| Membership/Treasurer | xxx-xxxx |

Direct all correspondence to:

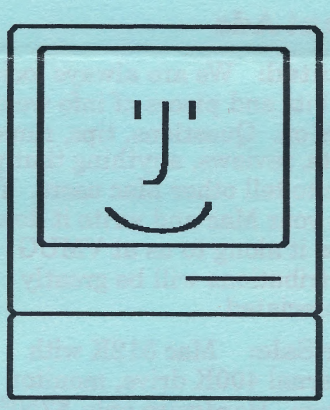
Victoria Macintosh Users Group
P.O. Box 5397, Stn. B
Victoria, B.C.,
V8R 6S4

⌘.

# Turn Your MacIntosh From Being a "SAD MAC"



# Into a "HAPPY MAC"



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